

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification by rewriting the following paragraphs, as set forth below in marked-up form.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 7, as follows.

--An electrostatically atomizing device **M** in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention is configured to ionize particulate water, for example, so as to generate ionized water particles of a nanometer. As shown in FIG. 1, the atomizing unit **M** includes a base **10** supporting a plurality of capillary carriers **20**, a barrel **30** surrounding the top of the base **10**, an electrode plate **40** fitted in the top opening of the barrel **30**, and a reservoir **50** attached to the lower side of the base **10**. The base **10** and the reservoir **50** are accommodated within a casing **90** together with a replenishing tank **80** detachable to the reservoir **50**. The casing **90** is accommodated within a recess **120** that is formed in a housing **101** of an air purifier **100**, as shown in FIG. 4. In the present embodiment, the reservoir **50** and the replenishing tank **80** are cooperative to define a liquid storing means for storing the liquid to be supplied to capillary carriers **20**. The recess **120** is sealed from the interior of the housing **101** to protect the high voltage source **70** from the water, in case the water leaks in the recess **102**. As shown in FIG. 1, the liquid storing means defined by the reservoir **50** and the replenishing tank **80** is accommodated within the housing (**101**) together with the capillary carriers **20**.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 4, as follows.

--The high voltage source **70** is configured to apply the high voltage having an electric field strength of 500 V/mm, for example, between the base **10** and the electrode plate **40**, developing an electrostatic atomization between the discharge end **21** at the distal end of the capillary carrier **20** and the electrode plate **40** defining the second electrode opposing the discharge end, such that tiny ionized water particles are emitted from the discharge end **21** towards the electrode plate **40**. That is, the high voltage induces Rayleigh disintegration of the water being

emitted from the discharge end, thereby generating negatively-charged water particles and emitting the mist of the tiny ionized water particles. In the present embodiment, the electrode plate 40 is connected to a ground potential so as to give a predetermined voltage difference relative to the negative potential given to the base 10. The high voltage source 70 applies a continuous or pulses of the high voltage between the electrode plate 40 and the base 10. The high voltage source 70 can be accommodated within the housing (101) together with the base 10 and the electrode plate 40.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 18, as follows.

--The electrode plate 40 is molded from an electrically conductive resin and shaped to have a circular outer periphery with a center opening having a star-shaped opening circumference 41. The opening circumference is held in closely opposed relation to the discharge end 21 of each carrier 20 to develop a discharge between the opening circumference 41 and the discharge ends 21. The electrode plate 40 is formed at its periphery with a second terminal 48 for connection with the positive side of the high voltage source 70. The first terminal 12 and the second terminal 48 are configured to come into pressed contact respectively with first and second contacts 71 and 72 that are connected respectively with the positive and negative sides of the voltage source 70. The first and second contacts 71 and 72 can be accommodated within the housing (101) together with the voltage source 70.--